

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-13 AEC-11 ACDA-19

OMB-01 EB-11 STR-08 AGR-20 CU-04 OIC-04 RSR-01 /196 W
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R 201838 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5834

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08856

HELSINKI FOR MPT DEL; VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E. O. 11652: X- GDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, NATO, UK, FR, GW

SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEW OF US/ EUROPEAN POLITICAL/ SECURITY
RELATIONS.

REF: BONN 8459

SUMMARY: BRITISH EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY HAS GIVEN
EMBOFF CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF PROSPECTS FOR
ELABORATION OF US/ EUROPEAN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
BEFORE PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT THIS AUTUMN TO EUROPE,
BUT BRITISH OFFICIAL PROVIDED VERY NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT
OF UK CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE US BUDGETARY TYPE
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BURDENSHARING SUPPORT. WITH DURABILITY OF US TROOP COMMITMENT THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE QUESTIONING IN LONDON, OUR SOURCE SAID THE BRITISH HOPED THE WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES, WITH EVENTUAL FRENCH COOPERATION, CAN BE CONVINCED OF THE NEED TO INTENSIFY THEIR POLITICAL AND CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE COOPERATION, USING THE EUROGROUP AS A TRANSITIONAL INSTRUMENT IN THE DEFENSE AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. US/ EUROPEAN RELATIONS. DURING JUNE 19 LUNCHEON HELD AT HIS SUGGESTION, BRITISH EMBASSY EXPERT ON EUROPEAN AND SECURITY MATTERS GAVE EMBOFF A SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVE ASSESSMENT THAN THE GERMANS THOUGHT HAD EMERGED FROM THE JUNE 12 JOBERT VISIT TO BONN ON PROSPECTS FOR A US/ EUROPEAN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES (REFTEL). SOURCE SAID THE BRITISH SAW DEFINITE ALBEIT GLACIAL MOVEMENT IN THE FRENCH POSITION SINCE JUNE 5 EC- NINE QUARTERLY MINISTERIAL MEETING (BONN 8110). IN PARTICULAR, THE BRITISH (LIKE GERMAN FONOFF POL DIRECTOR VAN WELL) WERE ENCOURAGED BY FRENCH AGREEMENT TO ARTICLE THREE OF THE COPENHAGEN NATO MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE. BRITISH FONOFF NOTED THAT IN THAT ARTICLE, THE FRENCH HAD ACKNOWLEDGED " THE PROFOUND CHANGES... IN EVERY FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY" AND HAD AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN NATO IN A MULTILATERAL CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP. FURTHER, BRITISH EMBOFF NOTED THAT JOBERT HAD INDICATED TO SCHEEL THAT FRENCH COULD AGREE TO A MULTILATERAL MEETING OF THE EC- NINE POL DIRECTORS PLUS THEIR US EQUIVALENT AFTER GENUINE PROGRESS HAD RESULTED FROM BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND FROM DISCUSSIONS IN NATO, GATT, IMF AND OTHER APPROPRIATE FORA. THE BRITISH HAD THE IMPRESSION, ALSO FROM THEIR OWN TALKS WITH THE FRENCH, THAT PARIS WOULD IN THE END AGREE TO A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO BE ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT THIS AUTUMN TO PARIS.

2. NOT WITHSTANDING THE ABOVE ASSESSMENT, BRITISH EMBOFF SAID PARIS CONTINUED TO ADHERE TO THE JUDGMENT THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO LEAVE THE ALLIANCE AS IT IS

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AND THAT A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY MEANINGLESS. SOURCE SAID LONDON AND BONN ALSO LIKED THE ALLIANCE AS IT IS AND CONSIDERED THAT A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY " WINDOW DRESSING". BUT BRITISH EMBOFF SAID HMG WAS READY TO GO ALONG WITH US REQUEST FOR DECLARATION AND THOUGHT THE REAL VALUE OF US/ EUROPEAN DIALOGUE WOULD

BE TO PROVIDE A BROAD POLITICAL FRAMEWORK FOR INDIVIDUAL NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE, MONETARY AND SECURITY MATTERS WITHOUT LINKING THESE ISSUES TOGETHER. OUR SOURCE SAID LONDON ALSO HOPED THIS DIALOGUE WOULD SERVE TO PREVENT FURTHER EROSION IN ALLIED DEFENSE ACTIVITIES.

3. BURDENSHARING AND US TROOPS IN EUROPE. WHEN EMBOFF RECALLED US INITIATIVE ON NEW EUROPEAN BURDENSHARING, BRITISH OFFICIAL WAS VERY NEGATIVE. HE SAID THERE WAS

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-13 OIC-04 AEC-11

ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01 EB-11 STR-08 AGR-20 CU-04 /196 W
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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08856

RECOGNITION IN LONDON OF THE MANSFIELD PROBLEM BUT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF WHEEDLING ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY SUPPORT FROM THE COMMONS TO

COUNTERACT THE US BOP DEFICIT ON MILITARY ACCOUNT. LONDON AND OTHER WEST EUROPEAN CAPITALS, LIKE WASHINGTON, ALSO HAD THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. INDEED, BRITISH EMBOFF SAID THE UK DEFENSE BUDGET RECENTLY WAS REDUCED BY FIFTY MILLION POUNDS STERLING AS A RESULT OF THOSE PROBLEMS; THE CUT WAS HELD TO FIFTY MILLION POUNDS, JUST SHORT OF THE INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S DEFENSE SPENDING, SO THAT HMG COULD CONTINUE TO POINT TO MODEST INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING. BUT THE LESSON IS CLEAR, NAMELY, THAT THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY SUPPORT IN LONDON FOR THE US BOP DEFICIT ON MILITARY ACCOUNT.

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4. IN REPLY, EMBOFF SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THIS NEWS GIVEN THE CURRENTLY DISTURBING PICTURE REGARDING US CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TO THE MAINTENANCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE. EMBOFF DREW ON STATE 118139 TO PUT BRITISH EMBOFF IN THE PICTURE. OUR INTERLOCUTOR SAID HE FULLY CREDITED THIS DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM, HAVING HIMSELF RECENTLY SERVED IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. BUT HE SAID THAT THIS UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT " THE BRITISH WELL IS DRY" AT THIS TIME. HE ADDED THAT HE COULD ONLY HOPE THAT THE MANSFIELD/ROSENTHAL RESOLUTIONS COULD BE BEATEN BACK THIS AUTUMN.

5. EUROPEAN POLITICAL/ DEFENSE COOPERATION. BRITISH EMBOFF SAID LONDON IS CONVINCED, GIVEN THE ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES, OF THE NEED TO INTENSIFY POLITICAL AND CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE COOPERATION AMONG WEST EUROPEAN NATO PARTNERS, BUT ALSO IS CONCIOUS OF THE PERSISTING FRENCH REFUSAL TO QUICKEN THE PACE, PARTICULARLY IN THE DEFENSE AREA. IN THE SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM PERIOD AHEAD, THE BRITISH LIKE THE GERMANS CONTINUE TO SEE THE EUROGROUP AS THE BEST TRANSITIONAL INSTRUMENT; IT IS HOPED THAT FRANCE WILL FIND A WAY TO JOIN IN THE EUROGROUP'S WORK, WHICH BRITISH OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED HAD LOST SOME STEAM IN RECENT MONTHS. AS TO THE SOMEWHAT LONGER RUN, BRITISH OFFICIALS SAID UK FONOFF AND DEFENSE MINISTRY PRESENTLY WERE ENGAGED IN STUDIES AS TO HOW TO DEVELOP WEST EUROPEAN POLITICAL AND CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE COOPERATION AS ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES OF A GENUINE "EUROPEAN UNION", THE EC GOAL FOR 1980.

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